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AUTHOR Coles, Robert; Coles, Robert E.; Coles, Daniel A.; Coles, Michael H.
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ABSTRACT

This book asks readers to shed preconceptions about teenage pregnancy and listen to the compelling voices of young women and men who are soon to become parents although barely out of childhood themselves. From conversations with teenagers across racial, geographic, and socioeconomic lines, the book weaves a narrative that reveals the aspirations and apprehensions of teenage parents. The book reveals that many pregnant teens believe that their babies will lead lives very different from their own, finding the success that has eluded them, and that teenage fathers' confusion and resentment often give way to a longing for respect and for a way out of lives limited by poverty and poor education. The text is accompanied by two photographic essays of teen families by a professor of photography who lived among young mothers in Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Nova Scotia, and Texas, and by a pediatrician who worked for several years with teenage parents in North Carolina. The book's chapters are: (1) "Watching"; (2) "Waiting"; (3) "Welfare"; (4) "Fast-Time"; (5) "Hit and Run"; (6) "Ups and Downs"; (7) "No Caution to Throw to the Winds"; and (8) "Second Chance."(EV)

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